

(a)(1) of this section and projected retained catches, by species. The value of whole fish processed into meal product will not be included in this calculation.

(3) *Research Plan fee percentage.* The Research Plan fee percentage for a calendar year will equal the lesser of 2 percent of the exvessel value of retained catch in the Research Plan fisheries or the fee percentage calculated using the following equation:

Fee percentage = $[100 \times (\text{RRPC} - \text{FB} - \text{OF}) / \text{V}] / (1 - \text{NPR})$

Where:

(i) RRPC is the projection of recoverable Research Plan costs for the coming year.

(ii) FB is the projected end of the year balance of funds collected under the Research Plan.

(iii) OF is the projection of other funding for the coming year.

(iv) V is the projected exvessel value of retained catch in the Research Plan fisheries for the coming year.

(v) NPR is the percent (expressed as a decimal) of fee assessments that are expected to result in nonpayment.

(4) *Observer coverage.* For the period January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996, observer coverage levels in Research Plan fisheries will be as required by § 679.51. After December 31, 1996, the level of observer coverage will be determined annually by NMFS, after consultation with the Council and the State of Alaska, and may vary by fishery and vessel or processor size, depending upon the objectives to be met for the groundfish, halibut, and king and Tanner crab fisheries. The Regional Director may change observer coverage inseason pursuant to § 679.52(d).

(5) *Embarkment/disembarkment ports.* Ports to be used to embark and disembark observers will be selected on the basis of convenience to the affected industry and on the availability of facilities, transportation, and accommodations deemed by the Regional Director to be necessary for the safe and reasonable deployment of observers.

(b) *Final Research Plan specifications.* NMFS will consider comments received on the proposed specifications and, following consultation with the Council, and with the State of Alaska, in the case of observer coverage in the crab

fisheries, will publish the final total exvessel value; standard exvessel prices; fee percentage; levels of observer coverage for Research Plan fisheries, including names of observer contractors and information for contacting them; and embarkment/disembarkment ports in the FEDERAL REGISTER annually, prior to the beginning of the calendar year.

§ 679.54 Compliance.

The operator of any fishing vessel subject to this subpart, and the manager of any shoreside processor that receives groundfish, halibut, or king and Tanner crab from vessels subject to this subpart, must comply with the requirements of this subpart. The owner of any fishing vessel subject to this subpart, or any shoreside processor that received groundfish, halibut, or king and Tanner crab from vessels subject to this subpart, must ensure that the operator or manager complies with the requirements of this subpart and is liable, either individually or jointly and severally, for compliance with the requirements of this subpart.

Subpart F—Scallop Fishery Off Alaska

SOURCE: 61 FR 38104, July 23, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 679.60 Gear and efficiency limits.

(a) *General.* Scallops may be taken only with dive gear or scallop dredge gear as defined at § 679.2.

(b) The inside ring diameter on all dredges used or carried by a vessel fishing for weathervane scallops (*Patinoplectin caurinus*) must be 4 inches (10.16 cm) or larger.

(c) The inside ring diameter on all dredges used or carried by a vessel fishing for scallops other than weathervane scallops must be 3 inches (7.62 cm) or larger.

(d) No person may use chafing gear or other devices that decrease the legal inside ring diameter of a scallop dredge.

(e) Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, no more than two scallop dredges may be operated at one time from a vessel, and the opening of

a scallop dredge must be equal to or less than 15 ft (4.57 m) wide.

(f) In the Kamishak, Southern, and Central Districts of Scallop Registration Area H defined under § 679.61, no more than one scallop dredge may be operated at one time from a vessel, and the opening of a dredge may not be more than 6 ft (1.83 m) in width.

(g) Scallops must be shucked by hand only. A shucking machine must not be on board a vessel that is fishing for scallops or that has scallops on board.

(h) No vessel fishing for scallops in Federal waters may have aboard more than 12 persons, exclusive of ADF&G or NMFS observers.

§ 679.61 Registration areas.

For the purpose of managing the scallop fishery, the Federal waters off Alaska and adjacent State waters are divided into nine scallop registration areas. Three scallop registration areas are further subdivided into districts. The scallop registration areas and districts are defined as follows:

(a) *Registration Area A* (Southeastern) has as its southern boundary the international boundary at Dixon Entrance, and as its northern boundary Loran-C line 7960-Y-29590, which intersects the western tip of Cape Fairweather at 58°47'58" N. lat., 137°56'30" W. long., except for ADF&G District 16 defined under paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) *Registration Area D* (Yakutat) has as its western boundary the longitude of Cape Suckling (143°53' W. long.), and as its southern boundary Loran-C line 7960-Y-29590, which intersects the western tip of Cape Fairweather at 58°47'58" N. lat., 137°56'30" W. long., and ADF&G District 16 defined as all waters all waters north of a line projecting west from the southernmost tip of Cape Spencer and south of a line projecting southwest from the westernmost tip of Cape Fairweather.

(c) *Registration Area E* (Prince William Sound) has as its western boundary the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148°50' W. long.), and its eastern boundary the longitude of Cape Suckling (143°53' W. long.).

(d) *Registration Area H* (Cook Inlet) has as its eastern boundary the longitude of Cape Fairfield (148°50' W.

long.) and its southern boundary the latitude of Cape Douglas (58°52' N. lat.).

(1) *Northern District*. North of a line extending from Boulder Point at 60°46'23" N. lat., to Shell Platform C, then to a point on the west shore at 60°46'23" N. lat.

(2) *Central District*. All waters between a line extending from Boulder Point at 60°46'23" N. lat., to Shell Platform C, to a point on the west shore at 60°46'23" N. lat., and the latitude of Anchor Point Light (59°46'12" N. lat.).

(3) *Southern District*. All waters enclosed by a line from Anchor Point Light west to 59°46'12" N. lat., 152°20' W. long., then south to 59°03'25" N. lat., 152°20' W. long., then in a northeasterly direction to the tip of Cape Elizabeth at 59°09'30" N. lat., 151°53' W. long., then from the tip of Cape Elizabeth to the tip of Point Adam at 59°15'20" N. lat., 151°58'30" W. long.

(4) *Kamishak Bay District*. All waters enclosed by a line from 59°46'12" N. lat., 153°00'30" W. long., then east to 59°46'12" N. lat., 152°20' W. long., then south to 59°03'25" N. lat., 152°20' W. long., then southwesterly to Cape Douglas (58°52' N. lat.). The seaward boundary of the Kamishak Bay District is 3 nautical miles seaward from the shoreline between a point on the west shore of Cook Inlet at 59°46'12" N. lat., 153°00'30" W. long., and Cape Douglas at 58°52' N. lat., 153°15' W. long., including a line three nautical miles seaward from the shorelines of Augustine Island and Shaw Island, and including the line demarking all state waters shown on NOAA chart 16640, 21st Ed., May 5, 1990 (Available from Alaska Region).

(5) *Barren Island District*. All waters enclosed by a line from Cape Douglas (58°52' N. lat.) to the tip of Cape Elizabeth at 59°09'30" N. lat., 151°53' W. long., then south to 58°52' N. lat., 151°53' W. long., then west to Cape Douglas.

(6) *Outer District*. All waters enclosed by a line from the tip of Point Adam to the tip of Cape Elizabeth, then south to 58°52' N. lat., 151°53' W. long., then east to the longitude of Alijo Point (149°44'33" W. long.), then north to the tip of Alijo Point.

(7) *Eastern District*. All waters east of the longitude of Alijo Point (149°44'33" W. long.), west of the longitude of Cape